



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

BOOK DEPARTMENT.

REVIEWS.

A Short Account of the Land Revenue and its Administration in British India. By B. H. BADEN-POWELL, one of the judges of the Chief Court of the Punjab. Pp. 254. Price \$1.50. Oxford: The Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan & Co., 1894.

This is "an attempt to describe the Land Revenue Administration of British India, and the forms of land-holding on which that administration is based, in the compass of one small volume." The same author has published "Land Systems of British India; being a Manual of the Land Tenures and of the Systems of Land Revenue Administration, prevalent in the several provinces." *

Necessarily the author had to exclude details. But he did not fill it with generalizations. He has selected the most general conditions and the most important effects and presented them analytically.

American readers will look to this source for brief and comprehensive information on British management of Indian lands. The British government aims to be fair and equitable; to have a system rigid enough to command respect and elastic enough to relieve the exceptional cases of hardship.

For the economist there is little new matter. Economic rent, incidence of taxation, co-operative and other methods of making improvements are not discussed. Everywhere and always, except in years of famine, there is a surplus product from the soil over and above the needs of the cultivators, of which the State gets no inconsiderable part; and frequently there is some individual or juristic person who, as landlord, gets as much more. "The revenue is technically said to consist of a fraction (usually one-half) of the . . . total rents actually received" by the landlord; and of half the "net product" of the lands of cultivating proprietors.

It is the student of social institutions who will find the book richest in suggestions. The English have surveyed large tracts of the land. They have made thorough and scientific estimates of the "rent" and "net product" of it, parcel by parcel. And they have finally determined what persons hold estates in the land, not only that they may know from whom to collect their revenue, but also that they may

* 3 Vols., Clarendon Press, 1894.

protect each and every estate from this time forth. All this is matter of permanent record, and changes are carefully recorded as they occur.

In the process of finding out all the estates resting on the land, of whatever kind and degree, and of determining who were the equitable owners, the history of many of them was thoroughly worked out. It appears that changes have been more violent than they can ever be again. The fortunes of war and peace have reduced independent chieftains to the grade of under-lords, or cultivating tenants, or possibly lower; and the same fortunes have raised undistinguished families to commanding positions. The money lender, the revenue farmer and the colonizer were of those who, having somewhat, could use it to acquire more. But so long as British administrators are discreet in executing the principles laid down, changeless and monotonous peace will reign. The landlord has now been guaranteed his determined and recorded rights; and the tenant has been guaranteed his.

Under the native rulers the changing conditions exemplified the principle of equality and the principle of inequality both at once. The descendants of conquerors, chieftains and colonizers were equal among themselves and had dependents in various degrees of subordination under them. The antithetical principles of change and conservation were coexistent. The energetic and powerful were increasing their power, and the rules forbidding the members of a ruling caste to become cultivators, which could not defend them from the successful aggressions of a stronger tribe, only served to make their condition in the reduced estate most hard. However, the force of custom in the hands of the natives is undoubtedly far weaker than the force of law in the hands of the English to conserve whatever was found that is fair and equitable.

No one estate in land seems to have claims to be called primary and original to the exclusion of all others; least of all has the estate of a group of communistic cultivators a right to this claim. From the days when the laws of Manu were in the process of codification society was recognizing as just and equitable the claims of various non-cultivators to a share in the product. This does not imply either that justice is absolute or that rent is just. No one ought to infer its justice from its antiquity. Simply this: it is now matter of record that the East Indians, Aryan and non-Aryan, accepted it without protest.

The book is, after all, a hard one to read. The style is not always unexceptionable. There is much that is of interest only to the candidate for the Indian Civil Service, who may use it as a textbook. The

heavy faced titles prefixed to each paragraph will guide the reader however. They are of more assistance than the index in looking up references to any particular subject. Americans will find the book valuable in spite of the dross.

FREDERICK W. MOORE.

Les Ministres dans les principaux pays d'Europe et d'Amérique.

Par L. DUPRIEZ. 2 vols. Pp. xix, 548 and viii, 544. Price, 20 francs. Paris : Rothschild, 1892, 1893.

Students of government will welcome this as the first exhaustive and satisfactory study of cabinets, embracing the latest and most scholarly investigations. Since it came out, one or two other works have appeared on the same subject, possessing some points of advantage in the way of handy reference, but not to be compared with this in learning and in the deeper treatment of the topic.

In the first volume the author takes up the rôle of ministers in constitutional monarchies, England, Belgium, Italy, Prussia, and the German Empire. Under each country the order of treatment is, first, the ministers and the constitution,—the sources of the constitution, the constitutional powers, the origin, composition, formation and general position of the cabinet ; second, the ministers and the king ; third, the ministers and parliament,—the organization and powers of the chambers, political parties, the part played by ministers in the preparation of laws and in financial legislation, and the control of ministers by parliament ; fourth, the ministers and administration,—local institutions, parliamentary control, and the functions of the individual ministers. The second volume treats of republics, the United States of America, Switzerland, and France. The scheme followed is essentially the same as in the first volume, with such modifications as the absence of royalty necessitates.

These two beautiful and learned volumes invite one at many places to approval and commendation ; but for special reasons the reviewer wishes to devote his limited space to a consideration of a portion of the second volume, the part allotted to France. In the ANNALS, as well as in other publications, there has of late been considerable discussion of cabinet government, with particular reference to its application to the United States. As it happens, nearly all writers, whichever side they take on the question, appeal almost solely to English experience alone. On many grounds this is largely justifiable ; England is the birthplace and home of cabinet government, and there it has had its normal development ; our own institutions are to a large extent virtually English ; our government, however much the outward